

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08435 180811Z

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR,UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

1. THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER ZA RUBEZHOM TOLD ITS READERS OVER THE WEEKEND THAT U.S. POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE PREDICTING THAT THERE WILL BE A NEW PRESIDENT IN 1977. THE NEWSPAPER'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DANIIL KRAMINOV, WRITING IN THE NEWSPAPER'S ISSUE NUMBER 25, CONTENDS IN A SIMPLISTIC ANALYSIS THAT "POLITICAL STORMS" IN THE U.S. GROWING OUT OF THE GENERAL
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08435 180811Z

CRISIS OF CAPITALISM, INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLES,AND

THE MISMATCH OF REAL U.S. STRENGTH WITH ITS EXAGGERATED CLAIM TO WORLD LEADERSHIP HAVE RESULTED IN A "PARTIAL PARALYSIS" OF THE U.S. POLITICAL SYSTEM. KRAMINOV SAYS THAT NO DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE ON QUESTIONS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO AGREE. KRAMINOV REASONS THAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE GAINING STRENGTH BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT AID TO ISRAEL, A POPULAR CAUSE (KRAMINOV SAYS 66 PERCENT FAVOR); THE REPUBLICANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE LOST SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY FAVORED AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AN UNPOPULAR CAUSE (14 PERCENT FAVORED).

2. KRAMINOV ALLUDES TO WATERGATE AS BEING CAUSE OF VIRTUAL DEATH OF REPUBLICAN PARTY, AND SAYS THAT EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO CREATE A NEW CONSERVATIVE PARTY WHOSE PLATFORM WOULD INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, A RETURN TO SEGREGATED SCHOOLS. KRAMINOV IN FOUR DIFFERENT INSTANCES QUOTES FROM ALLEGED INTERVIEWS WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS IN WHICH ALL EXPRESS FIRM OPINION THAT 1977 WILL SEE A NEW PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE, WITH THE ODDS FAVORING A DEMOCRAT. ONE EDITOR IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PRESENT PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT ARE "OUTSTANDING FIGURES" BUT NOT "NATIONAL LEADERS". KRAMINOV THEN INVESTIGATES DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES AND CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS A "VACUUM AT THE TOP" IN THAT PARTY AS WELL. JACKSON IS CRITICIZED, OTHER CANDIDATES SIMPLY NAMED. KRAMINOV'S FINAL LINE IS THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL FIND THE LEADERSHIP NECESSARY TO GIVE THE U.S. THE PURPOSEFUL GOVERNMENT IT NOW NEEDS SO BADLY.

3. COMMENT: TISHIS IS THE MOST COMPLETE SURVEY ON THE U.S. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION WE HAVE SEEN FOR SOME TIME AND FIRST ONE TO SUGGEST SO POINTEDLY TO SOVIET READERS THAT A CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION COULD OCCUR AFTER THE 1976 ELECTION.
MATLOCK

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